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**EPA Proposes Plan for Groundwater Cleanup at
Omega Chemical Corporation Superfund Site**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is requesting public comment on the Proposed Plan (Plan) to address human health and environmental risks posed by contaminated groundwater at the Omega Chemical Corporation Superfund Site (Site) in Whittier, CA. From 1976 to approximately 1991, Omega Chemical Corporation operated as a refrigerant and solvent recycling, reformulation, and treatment facility. As a result of its operations and spills and leaks of various chemicals, the soil and groundwater beneath the Omega property became contaminated with high concentrations of tetrachloroethylene (PCE), trichloroethylene (TCE), Freons 11 and 113 and other contaminants.

The Plan describes cleanup alternatives and EPA's Preferred Alternative to contain the large plume of contaminated groundwater that extends approximately four and one-half miles south-southwest of the former Omega property. This area of the Site is designated as Operable Unit 2 (OU-2). EPA will select an interim remedy for OU-2 after reviewing and considering all information received during the 30-day public comment period, which runs from August 23, 2010 to September 21, 2010.

You are invited to attend a **public meeting on August 31, 2010** at the **Whittier Community Center at 7360 Washington Ave., Whittier, CA**. From 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, EPA staff will host an informal information session and be available to answer questions about the Site, the Plan and the remedy selection process. From 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, EPA will present the Plan and record formal verbal comments. The public is encouraged to **submit comments** in writing at any time during the comment period by email, fax or mail postmarked **no later than September 21, 2010** to:

Lynda Deschambault,
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-7-1)
San Francisco, CA 94105
Direct Line: (415) 947-4183
Fax Number: (415) 947-3526
Email: deschambault.lynda@epa.gov

The Plan summarizes key information from the OU-2 remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS). EPA may modify the Preferred Alternative or select another response action presented in this Plan based on new information or public comments received during the comment period.

There are three primary goals for this interim remedy: prevent unacceptable human exposure to contaminated groundwater, decrease lateral and vertical spreading of contaminants in groundwater at OU-2 and decrease the migration of highly contaminated groundwater into zones that currently have lower concentrations of contaminants to optimize the treatment of extracted groundwater.

The following alternatives are explained more in the Proposed Plan fact sheet and in detail in the RI/FS report. Each, except the "No Action" alternative, includes a groundwater extraction and treatment system to contain the plume, treat the water and provide the treated water for a beneficial end use.

Alternative 1: No Action
Alternative 2: Leading-edge Extraction with Drinking Water End Use
Alternative 3: Plume-wide Extraction with Reclaimed Water End Use
Alternative 4: Plume-wide Extraction with Reinjection
Alternative 5: Plume-wide Extraction with Spreading Basin Recharge
Alternative 6 is EPA's Preferred Alternative: Plume-wide Extraction with Drinking Water End Use

Proposed Plan fact sheets and the Administrative Record file, which holds documents used to develop the cleanup alternatives considered, are available at the Whittier Public Library, 7344 S. Washington Avenue, Whittier, CA., (562) 464-3450. To view the final RI/FS report or Proposed Plan fact sheet online, go to: www.epa.gov/region09/OmegaChemical

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